

Application No. 10/009,885

Filed: January 22, 2002

TC Art Unit: 3751

Confirmation No.: 5084

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of treating a coherent high porosity, elongate element designed to form ~~the a nib according to claim 3~~, the method comprising the steps of:

from an elongate element which is a rod constituted by fibers that have previously been held together by a binder, continuously impregnating said elongate element with a sealing bath having a sealing agent that is inert relative to the components of the ink, impregnation being performed under conditions of viscosity, of time, of surface tensions, and of concentration in particular, such that said bath diffuses into the elongate element and fills the pores or capillaries of the rod over a limited thickness at of its longitudinal periphery; and

setting the sealing agent in such a manner that the pores or capillaries are plugged and a substantially airtight barrier is created preventing the ink solvent from evaporating or limiting evaporation thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7, wherein the same compound that serves as the elongate element is a

-2-

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313

Application No. 10/009,885

Filed: January 22, 2002

TC Art Unit: 3751

Confirmation No.: 5084

~~rod that is constituted of fibers that are secured by a binder for~~
~~the fibers, and said binder is also used as the sealing agent.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the rod is based on acrylic fibers, and the ~~binding binder~~ and the sealing agent ~~is~~ are an acid-catalyzed melamine formaldehyde resin.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the sealing agent is set by subjecting the elongate element to heat treatment.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The nib obtained by cutting into segments and machining a high porosity elongate element treated according to the method of claim 7.

Claims 12-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A writing implement comprising an ink included in a solvent and a nib insuring the transfer of ink from an ink reservoir to the end of the nib serving as a writing tip, wherein the nib is constituted of a ~~segment of a coherent~~

-3-

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313

Application No. 10/009,885

Filed: January 22, 2002

TC Art Unit: 3751

Confirmation No.: 5084

elongate element of high porosity material, with at least a first end shaped to form the writing tip, and wherein the high porosity material is constituted of fibers ~~juxtaposed and that have~~ previously been held together by a binder ~~of sintered microbeads,~~ and wherein pores or capillaries of said material are blocked over a limited thickness at the longitudinal ~~other~~ outer periphery of the elongate element, in order to create an airtight barrier preventing the ink solvent from evaporating or limiting evaporation thereof, with the exception of the first end forming the writing tip.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 8 wherein the rod is based on polyester fibers and the sealing agent is an acid-catalyzed melamine resin, a melamine urea-formaldehyde resin, a two-component epoxy resin, or a two-component polyurethane resin.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 7, wherein the rod has a diameter lying in the range of 2 mm to 15 mm and the limited thickness lies in the range of 0.01 mm to 1 mm.